

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraphs [0040] and [0041] as identified in the published application as follows:

[0040] FIG. [[5]] 7 is a photograph of the surface appearance of the 316LN immersion samples 30, 31 and 32 after 1, 3 and 4 months after continuous immersion in the metal bath. Visual examination showed no evidence of erosion or localised pitting or thinning of the edges of the sample. In addition, the surface of the samples showed no evidence of spiked or horned growth (ie. cone-shaped alloy outbreaks on the surface of the immersed pot gear). Spike growth is related to the presence of .sigma.-phase in the microstructure of the pot gear.

[0041] The immersion samples also reacted with the bath metal and formed an alloy layer similar in composition to that found in 316L. FIG. [[6]] 8 shows the alloy growth as a function of the square root time of immersion. The graph indicates that the alloy growth rate is diffusion controlled.